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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT State-run Music Schools/Music Clubs/
 Musical Instruction/Political Indoctrination
 in Music Schools.

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- In spite of the regime's propaganda boast of the state's patronage for arts, not much has been done to develop the teaching of music in Warsaw; apart from nationalizing the existing pre-war schools of music, the regime has opened only one new school, in Aleje Jerozolimskie. Most of the music schools in Warsaw after World War II were run by the Warsaw Musical Society, later named after S. Moniuszko (Warszawskie Towarzystwo Muzyczne im. Stanislaw Moniuszki). The rest were privately owned and were nationalized quite early after the war. The Society, which lost most of its effects during the Warsaw Uprising, re-established itself with great difficulty and, in addition to schools, also operated a very good symphony orchestra. It also managed (in spring 1951) to open its own house (at 24 Nowy Swiat, in the back of the 'Mars' restaurant reconstructed from a fire-destroyed ruin.)
- About 1949, however, the regime began to interfere with the affairs of the Society; this was the time when the Communists began gradually to liquidate the remnants of voluntary associations and to subject them to their management. Until then, the Society had been expected only to observe the recommendations of the Cultural Department of the Party Central Committee concerning the program. In 1949, under the pretext of some 'disorder' in the Society's affairs, the government appointed a curator to run the organization. This curator was Jerzy Jasienki, at that time musical adviser in the Ministry of Culture, later transferred to the Central Management of Operas and Philharmonics (Czofim). Under this curatorship, the music schools run by the Society were taken over by the State. It was soon quite clear that the number of existing schools was not sufficient, but the state apparently could not spare funds to open new ones. It is presumably for this reason that the Warsaw Music Society, in 1951, succeeded in obtaining the government's permission to operate the so-called 'Ogniska Muzyczne', i.e., courses of musical instruction.

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3. It might be added that, also in 1951, the curator was recalled and the Society was again able to elect its own executive; but the atmosphere of mutual distrust and intrigues, initiated by Communist interference, could not be removed, and towards the end of 1952 the regime again appointed a curator to put the Society's affairs in order. This time it was a woman, a Party member. It is said that the Society will be freed from this constant supervision when it is ready to elect an executive totally subservient to the wishes of the Party.
4. A Communist 'trustee' in the Society is Wiktor Koscinski, director of the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra. During the short spell between two curatorships he held the post of vice-chairman and virtually ruled the Society, often against the wishes of the chairman professor Piotr Rytel. Koscinski is a member of the Communist Party.
5. Beside the schools, the Society also lost its Symphony Orchestra, which was taken over by the State in 1952; later on it made an effort to organize a brass band, but had to give that up for lack of financial support. In fact, the Warsaw Musical Society's case may be treated as typical for the way in which the regime copes with voluntary associations: It takes over all valuable assets and enterprises, makes them state-run, and does not give any support to independent voluntary efforts. It is indeed a patronage of arts, but only of state-controlled arts.
6. However, the Society's music clubs (Ogniska) are still operating as they contribute a little musical instruction, which the few state-schools cannot satisfy. Apart from these two categories of musical schools (state-run and music clubs), music is also taught in Warsaw on the level of working people's or youth's clubs, but no interesting results are obtained.
7. State-run music schools: There are about 10 or 12 schools of music in Warsaw, run by the state. These include:
 - a. Preparatory music schools which train children up to 14 years old; these have a five-year course.
 - b. Middle schools of music, to which students are accepted after graduating from the preparatory school; the course lasts 5 years.
 - c. One academy of music, course lasting 4 years, accepting students who have graduated from the middle school. The program includes music composition and a course for orchestra conductors.

In the middle schools, there is a special faculty training teachers of music and singing for ordinary schools.
8. All these schools remain under the control of the Ministry of Culture, through a special body called 'Central Board of Schools of Arts' (Centralny Zarzad Szkol Artystycznych). The finances for their operation are provided by the Praesidium of National Council of the City of Warsaw. The funds allotted are very meagre, and the schools can scarcely make ends meet. Very rarely, an additional grant is given for some indispensable investment, such as the purchase of new musical instruments.
9. Teachers' salaries are very modest: Those who are in the highest salary group, earn about z1.1000 a month. It often happens however that teachers take jobs in two schools simultaneously, and in this way may raise their standard of living.
10. Students in the music schools live, for the most part, in very difficult conditions. They do not have to pay to attend a state school but, on the other hand, they receive very little financial support for their maintenance during the studies. There is a scholarship fund of the Warsaw City National Council, but scholarship grants are very small for students of music schools: Only z1.100 a month or so, perhaps more than that in the Academy of Music. Moreover, only a few students are granted these scholarships (out of the hundreds of those who need them). Piano students can also receive scholarships from the so-called 'Frederick Chopin Fund', the amounts granted are even smaller than those offered by the National Council.

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11. Music Clubs: Music instruction in the 'Ogniska Muzyczne', operated by the Warsaw Musical Society, is paid for by the students, because the Society does not receive any subsidies for this activity. Students pay from 21.00 to 21.70 per month for instruction, depending on the type of lessons.
12. The course at such a "Music Club" lasts four years and graduates are qualified to teach singing or music in schools, or to be music instructors in workers' or youth clubs. Before being accepted in a course, a candidate must take a sort of examination before a board appointed by the Society; this examination is given to ascertain if he has any musical aptitude or rudimentary knowledge of music. Also, all the candidates must either possess the necessary musical instrument or have regular access to such; otherwise, of course, no serious study is possible, and the Society has no means of providing students with such opportunities.
13. Teachers in the 'Ogniska Muzyczne' earn less than those employed in state schools, but at the same time these music clubs provide a chance of employment for many artists of the older generation who are considered 'waste' by the regime, or are unable to adapt themselves to the artistic requirements of the 'new times'. Also, working for the music clubs, these teachers find it easier to accept private pupils on the sly, without being burdened with the accompanying taxations; because music teachers giving private lessons are in principle considered as belonging to 'free enterprise', and must have a license to practice this profession, and pay very high taxes. If a teacher works for a Society's music club, he may receive the students of the club at his home. As a result no one can really check up which of the young people are the students of the clubs, and which are coming for lessons on a purely private arrangement.
14. The music clubs meet in the Society's building at Nowy Swiat, and also in various halls scattered all over Warsaw which are rented by the hour (in factories or schools).
15. Political Indoctrination in Music Schools: In Warsaw's state-run music schools, etc., political education lessons are an integral part of the program. In all three degrees of studies, a compulsory course in political science is conducted once a week under the title of 'Study of the Polish Constitution' (in the Academy of Music: 'Study of Marxism-Leninism'). All teachers in state music schools must undergo a special course in Marxism-Leninism, which is organized for them by the Ministry of Culture. The course lasts six months and culminates in an examination before a special commission. A teacher who does not pass such a course is not considered sufficiently qualified to give, say, violin lessons. This regulation is very troublesome to teachers many of whom have been in the musical profession for many years and are well-known. Even older, well-established musicians are not exempted. The age limit for this political indoctrination of teachers is sixty years. Teachers who have not completed such a course are dismissed. This means that older professors, over sixty, no longer have any place in music schools and the music clubs of the Musical Society are their only refuge, apart from private lessons.
16. In music clubs there is no compulsory political education; but there are 'social activities' which the Warsaw Musical Society is obliged to perform, as is any other organization or institution in Poland. 'Social activities' encompass certain duties (without payment) which must be performed on the request of the authorities. These duties entail gratis performances at various political festivals, official birthdays and similar meetings. Advanced students of music clubs often participate in such performances, in which a prominent role is played by the choir of the music clubs. This choir is conducted by Czachowski and often appears at various official celebrations in Warsaw.

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17. Popularization of music among the population: The Warsaw Music Society and its music clubs participate quite often in a program of free concerts arranged by the Cultural Department of Praesidium of the Warsaw City National Council, with the purpose of popularizing music among the masses. The idea is, no doubt, most worthy, and the popularity of the concerts great; but there is a distinct political bias in the composition of the program in the effort to eliminate Western music and to spread the taste for Soviet music.
18. The annual work plan in this section is prepared by the Cultural Department which, of course, is well informed about all current tendencies in art and usually does not make mistakes. The plan is subsequently presented to the Ministry of Culture which approves it, in most cases without any deletions or changes. Sometimes, however, an item is crossed out by the Ministry, with no reason given. (The reasons must be the Ministry's secrets.)
19. The concerts are held either in various halls hired for the purpose, or in the open air (in Paderewski Park). Some concerts are purely for entertainment, but some are instructive, with well known musicologists explaining the meaning of the pieces which are to be played, as well as the principles of composition.
20. The most popular types of instructive concerts are:
- a. Soviet music (most popular are Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Musorgski)
 - b. Contemporary Soviet music (especially Prokofiev, Khatchaturian, Shostakovich)
 - c. Older Polish composers like Chopin and Moniuszko (these two are especially popularized)
 - d. Polish folk music
 - f. Music of other 'people's democracies' (in which Czechoslovak composers appear very prominently)
 - g. Ballet music, again with a special stress on Tchaikovsky.
21. There are, of course, programs of classical works by Western composers, but there is no doubt that the above types of programs are predominant, which of course produces a certain slant in the musical knowledge and taste of the people."

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